between the States to effectively counter growing activities of the left wing ultras in the tribal-dominated districts of Orissa, Jharkhand etc. agart for developing the tribal belts of the States. The State Government, in consultation with the Administrative Ministry, has been requested to revise the proposal after segregating the National Highway component from that of the State roads and explore the possibility of funding the State roads component from various heads like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Backward Regions Grant Funds, Food for Work Programme, Works under Central Road Fund (CRF), State Plan, etc. and the National Highway component from the Plan scheme "National Highway (original works)".

Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan

991. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a mid-term appraisal of the economy, the Planning Commission has projected a GDP growth rate of 10 per cent during the Eleventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also identified several risk factors which might hinder the growth process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to address the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The factors that might hinder the growth process include the performance of agriculture sector on account of vagaries of monsoon, infrastructure bottlenecks, rising prices of oil in international market, inadequate investment demand, lower public investment and slowdown in the world economy. The various steps needed to address these problems have been spelt out in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan which has been placed in the Parliament library.

World Development Report-2006

992. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)-whether the World Bank has lately come out with the World Development Report-2006, with Equity and Development as its theme;

(b) what position is held by India, in terms of 'equality' and in what manner it compares with inequality status of China, Pakistan and other Asian economies and the world average;

(c) whether Government have or are drawing out a plan of action to bring "inequality" status in India to the average level in developed world; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Table below provides the inequality status of India, China, Pakistan and some other countries in regard to *income/consumption expenditure,* as provided in the *World Development Report-2006.* The Report does not, however, give similar figure for the world average.

Table 1: Income/Consumption Inequality Measure

Countries	Survey Year	Y/C	Gini Index
India	1999/2000	C	0.33
China	2001	C	0.45
Pakistan	2001	C	0.27
Indonesia	2000	C	0.34
Thailand	2002	C	0.40
Vietnam	2002	C	0.35
UK	1999	Y	0.34
USA	2000	Y	0.38

Note: While Y refers to inequality measured in terms of income, C refers to inequality measured in terms consumption expenditure.

(c) and (d) The Gini index based on consumption expenditure of the people (Table 1) shows that inequality in India (0.33) has been less then that of China (0.45), Thailand (0.40), Indonesia (0.34) and Vietnam (0.35). The Gini co-efficient is a number between 0 and 1, where 0 corresponds to perfect equality. Higher Gini index thus shows higher inequality and *vice versa.*

The data provided in the *World Development Report-2006* pertain to 1990's. Significant progress has been made by India since then in relation to poverty, health and education. Population below the poverty line, as

measured in terms of $1 (PPP) per day, came down from 34.7 per cent in 1993-94 to 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000.

Higher economic growth has been a key element of the strategy for poverty reduction in India. Creation of self-employment opportunities (Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), wage employment (Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana) and rural housing (Indira Awaas Yojana) are the three main *anti poverty programmes* of the Government of India. Plan allocation for these programmes has been significantly stepped up from Rs. 450 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 9862 crore *(up by Rs. 9412 crore)* in 2005-06. Quite similarly, plan allocation for 'elementary education' has been increased from Rs. 1637 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 10,430 crore in 2005-06 (up by 8793 crore). Plan allocation for healthcare of children (i.e. ICDS) was also stepped up from Rs. 1208 core in 2001-02 to Rs. 3154 crore (up by Rs. 1946 crore) in 2005-06 The latest programme, the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which is targeted at the poor in the 200 under developed districts, should further reduce poverty and inequality.

Training to Drivers

†993. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering over preparing any plan with regard to providing training to drivers in view of the increase in road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cities selected for this plan; and

(d) whether Government are considering to seek assistance from other agencies under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Already two schemes "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in Unorganized Sector" and "Setting up of a Training Institute on Driving & Research" are in operation to impart training to drivers with a view to minimizing road accidents in this country. The main objective of the scheme "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in Unorganized Sector" is to impart training to drivers of heavy

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi